

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Barnwell Soil & Water Conservation District



2006 Cooperators of the Year



Left to right: Commissioner Dr. Michael Sullivan with Gene Rowell accepting a plaque for the 2006 Cooperator of the Year award.



Left to right: Commissioner Thomas O. Sanders presenting Samuel Bush with the 2006 Cooperator of the Year award.

The Barnwell Conservation District held their annual Awards Luncheon at the Winton Inn restaurant on April 12, 2007. The District awarded two plaques for Cooperator of the Year for 2006. There were two farms that the District really felt were deserving of recognition for their conservation work.

Gene Rowell and his son Brian was chosen for conserving the soil for years by strip-till planting their crops. The Rowells dispose of their chemicals properly, and they utilize pest and nutrient management practices that have conservation as well as crop production benefits. Gene and his son Brian love the land and want to take good care of it.

Samuel Bush was also chosen as the 2006 Cooperator of the Year for installing conservation practices to improve grazing management and protect wetlands on his beef cattle farm. Cross-fencing, stockwater tanks, heavy use protection, and rotational grazing are some of the practices he completed to enhance cattle production and conserve natural resources.

The District appreciates the commitment these cooperators made to farming and natural resource conservation.



Dr. Michael J. Sullivan -
Elected Commissioner

SULLIVAN ELECTED AS NEW COMMISSIONER

Dr. Michael J. Sullivan was elected as Commissioner of the Barnwell Soil & Water Conservation District in the November 2006 General Election. Dr. Sullivan brings much knowledge and experience to the board. He received his doctorate in Entomology from North Carolina State in 1973. Sullivan retired from Clemson University's Edisto Research & Education Center after 32 years of service.

Dr. Sullivan replaced Dick Sprawls whose elected term ended 1/31/07. The District appreciates the many contributions that Dick Sprawls provided to the Board while serving as Commissioner and Associate Commissioner for 11 1/2 years.

Brenda H. Nettles was re-elected as Commissioner in the November 2006 General Election to serve another four year term.

Conservation District Commissioners are non-salary volunteers who provide leadership for the conservation of natural resources.

Conservation Accomplishments

Conservation Program Funding

- The United States Department of Agriculture's Conservation Programs under the 2002 Farm Bill provide financial assistance to landowners, farmers, and other land users. A total of \$3,493,564 has been allocated in Barnwell County under this Farm Bill.



Wetland Restoration - A dike was constructed to restore wetlands on land owned by Edisto Properties. This restoration work was completed under the Wetland Reserve Program. The dike will allow the drained area to return as a natural wetland. Wetlands provide habitat and water for many wildlife species. They also serve to filter pollutants, thus providing cleaner water down stream.



◀ **Field Border** - A field border is a strip of planted or volunteer vegetation established along the edge of a crop field. These borders, such as the one pictured on John Bedingfield's farm, provide many conservation benefits. They can prevent soil erosion along the field edge and reduce the amount of runoff from the cropland. Wildlife habitat is also enhanced by the vegetation that provides food and cover for wildlife.

▶ **Residue Management** - Strip-till and no-till are the residue management practices now commonly used by local farmers. Strip-till or no-till means planting a crop, without plowing or disking the field, into residue from the previous crop or a cover crop. This conservation practice reduces water and wind erosion while improving water quality, soil quality, air quality and wildlife habitat. The photo shows corn that farmer Walker Nix planted into residue from the previous soybean crop.



◀ **Grazing Land Conservation** - Farmer Samuel Bush is shown standing beside cross-fencing and a stockwater tank that was installed with a crushed stone pad to eliminate mud and standing water around the tank. A well and pipeline were utilized to provide water for the four stockwater tanks in this pasture. These conservation practices provide clean drinking water for livestock and facilitate a rotational grazing system. This enhances forage and livestock production while improving soil and water quality.

South Carolina Conservation Partnership Conference



Left to right: Louise Hughes, Awards Chair, presented Linda Pickering with a clock/pen set and cash award for the 2006 Outstanding Conservation District Employee.



Left to right: Mike Lott received an award from NRCS State Conservationist Walter Douglas for the Conservation Partnership Employee of the Year.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts (SCACD) held its annual Conservation Partnership Conference on January 3-6, 2007, at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Linda Pickering, Administrative Assistant for the Barnwell Conservation District, was named the 2006 Outstanding Conservation District Employee. Also, honored at the conference was Mike Lott, NRCS - Acting District Conservationist for Barnwell and Bamberg Counties. Lott was presented with the 2006 SC Conservation Partnership award for his exceptional assistance to the Barnwell and Bamberg Districts.

SC Envirothon Competition

The Barnwell District sponsored teacher Mindy Sandifer, as coach, and five students from the Barnwell Career Center in the 2006 Envirothon competition. Students were: Amanda Hiott, Gillian Tuttle, Blake Morris, Nick Still, and Corey Creech. (Casey Bell was an alternate).

The competition was held at the Clemson Institute for Economic and Community Development (formerly, Sandhills Research Center) in Columbia, S.C. on May 12, 2006.

The South Carolina Envirothon is an annual hands-on environmental problem-solving competition for high school students. The competition tests the student's knowledge on topics such as soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife and current environmental issues.

Winners receive trophies, local and state-wide media coverage, and scholarships ranging from \$100-\$500 per student. A team registration fee of \$100 is required for participation.



Grants



The Barnwell Conservation District was awarded three grants to enhance environmental educational programs through PowerPoint and other resources. Grants were received from Power for Wildlife, Edisto-Savannah RC&D, and the Hartzog Foundation. Two new programs, Songbirds and Wonderful World of Wildflowers, were created on PowerPoint by the District. The grants also enabled the purchase of a projector and other materials. Contact us at 803-259-7144 for more information on these and other programs.

Thanks for your support!



"Recycling a Can" Presentation
Barnwell Primary Kindergarten students - Learning to sort items for recycling.



Approximately 209 Kindergarten students participated in the Barnwell District's recycling program.



◀Sammy Soil Presentation - Commissioner Brenda Nettles assists Blackville Macedonia Kindergarten student on make-shift tractor. Puppet Sammy Soil teaches students what a good conservation farmer does versus a bad farmer.



SC DNR Program Coordinator Harry Doswell assisted the Barnwell District with the H2O Olympics program at Barnwell Primary School.



◀A third grade Barnwell Primary student experiments with water tension by using a paperclip to simulate an insect called the water strider.

► Third Grade students studying water pressure and other water properties during H2O Olympics.



Carolina Coastal Adventure



Left to right: Colton Barker, Ethan Frazier, and Bryant Lott.

The Barnwell District sponsored Colton Barker, Ethan Frazier, and Bryant Lott in the 2006 Carolina Coastal Adventure Workshop. All three delegates were tenth grade students from Barnwell High School.

The Carolina Coastal Adventure Workshop was open to all 9th and 10th grade students who were interested in exploring the water resources of the Palmetto State. The workshop was held at Santee Cooper's Somerset facility on Lake Moultrie in Pinopolis, S.C.

Through many fun and exciting activities, delegates learn about what keeps our water supplies clean, our rivers healthy, and our marine resources thriving.

Applications are available through school guidance offices and the Barnwell Conservation District office during August.

2006 Contest Winners - Theme "Water Wise"



Essay Contest Winners -

◀ Nolan Wyndham (1st place) and Hillary Zorn (3rd place). Rebecca Elmore (2nd place) absent from photo. *Seventh grade-Barnwell Guinyard Butler Middle School students.*

▶ Dale Bragg (1st place) and Brittany Wyndham (2nd place). Michele West (3rd place) absent from photo. *Eighth grade Guinyard Butler Middle School students. (Trophies, cash awards, and certificates were given).*



Jessica Lain's photo titled "Sunset" was chosen as the winning photograph. *Eleventh grade-Barnwell High School. (Certificate and \$50 cash award given).*



◀Cindy Lambert's Kindergarten class was the winner of the 2006 Poster Contest.

Posters were to be the work of all students in the class with minimal instruction and assistance from the teacher.

The Barnwell District presented Ms. Lambert's class with a certificate and check for \$30. Honorable mention went to Ms. Pam Smith's (Group 2) Fourth Grade Class. All classes with entries were given certificates.

Thanks to our 2006 Affiliate Members...

Bronze (\$50)

Adam's Nursery & Landscaping LLC
 AgSouth Farm Credit, ACA
 Anderson Oil Company, Inc.
 Barnwell Service Center
 Duratex-Chem Nuclear Systems
 Enterprise Bank
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack H. Keel
 Robert Bates, Jr.
 Salkehatchie Coon Hunters Assoc.

SCANA/SC Electric & Gas Co.

The Mosteller Law Firm LLC
 Thomas O. Sanders, III
 Town of Blackville
 Wildwood Garden Club
 Williams Farm & Garden Center

Silver (\$75)

Berley's Pharmacy

Gold (\$100)

CFP Enterprises
 Clariant Corporation
 Edisto Electric Cooperative
 Farm Bureau
 First Citizens Bank
 National Beverage Screen Printers
 Phil Sandifer & Sons Farms, LLC
 Senator Brad Hutto
 Stephan Wiles

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



◀ (Front row, left to right:) Rebecca Davis (Secretary/Treasurer), Commissioner Brenda H. Nettles, and Associate Samuel Bush.

(Second row, left to right:) Commissioner Dick Sprawls, Vice-Chairman Thomas O. Sanders, III, Chaplain Frederick Orr, and Chairman James Riley Hill.

Listed below are some of the conservation accomplishments in Barnwell County reported by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Performance Summary 2006	County Measures
Conservation Plans for Cropland	3,068 acres
Conservation Plans for Grazing	561 acres
Grazing land with Conservation Applied	644 acres
Land Treated for Fish & Wildlife Habitat	811 acres
Cropland Treated for Erosion	1,890 acres
Soil Erosion Reduced	29,994 tons
Wetlands Created, Restored or Enhanced	186 acres



Technical Staff—DNR Program Coordinator Harry Doswell, NRCS District Conservationist Mike Lott, Administrative Assistant Linda Pickering, and Conservation Technician Tommy Smoak.

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Address:

We're on the web!

www.dnr.sc.gov

The United States Department of Agriculture and the Conservation District prohibit discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or family status. The USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Commissioners of the Barnwell Soil and Water Conservation District are committed to helping Educate Barnwell County's children and landowners about our natural resources. It is our goal that land-users and students develop an understanding of inter-relationships of man, water, soil, air and wildlife.

The Barnwell District is a *non-profit organization* that depends on financial support from Affiliate Members. Through your donation, the District is better able to promote conservation in all schools in the county and sponsor the various programs available to promote conservation stewardship within Barnwell County.

____ Bronze (\$50)

____ Silver (\$75)

____ Gold (\$100)

____ Platinum (\$200 or more)

NAME

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